(3) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects

During the last three years (2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04) 14 project worth Rs. 1621.85 lakh have sanctioned for development of tourism in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Several studies have been conducted by the Market Research Division of this Ministry on the basis of which, the Ministry of Tourism is promoting the places of tourist interests all over India including Andhra Pradesh through its 13 Indiatourism offices located abroad and through the 'Incredible India' campaign. The tourist arrival figures and foreign exchange details during the last three years have been as under:

Sr. No.		2002	2003	2004
1.	Foreign tourist arrivals	238464	2726214	3367980
2.	Foreign exchange earnings (Rs. in crores)	14195.00	16429.00	21828.25

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of a Tourism Board

†124. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any plan to set up a Tourism Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the plans Government are having for the infrastructural development of tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism in close coordination with the State Governments identifies projects for central financial assistance under the following schemes:—

1. Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits.
2. Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development
3. Assistance to large Revenue Generating Projects.

Spiritual tourism

125. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minsiter of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of health tourism and action plan to boost spiritual tourism;

(b) whether Government have drawn up a vision document for transforming India into a health destination; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) India is famous for its traditional and natural medicine and is known to promote Ayurveda, Yoga, Panchkarma Rejuvenation, etc. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has published a brochure and CD ROM titled "Body, Mind and Soul" giving information on ancient and proven healing techniques which are distributed by Indiatourism Offices in India and abroad.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with Ministry of Tourism have set up a Task Force with a view to promoting India as a Health Destination for persons across the world so as to gainfully utilize the health care expertise and infrastructure available in the country. In addition, it has also been decided to have separate Sub-Committees on Accreditation, Price Banding, Insurance and HRD.